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UNCLAS MONROVIA 000252

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STATE FOR AF/W-PDAVIS AND INR/AA-BGRAVES

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: [PGOV](#) [KDEM](#) [LI](#)
SUBJECT: LIBERIA: UNITY PARTY CANDIDATE WINS NIMBA COUNTY
ELECTION

REF: A. MONROVIA 00174

[1](#)B. 06 MONROVIA 01199

[1](#)1. (U) The candidate of the governing Unity Party (UP), Evans [1](#)V. Koah, won the February 20 by-election runoff for the House of Representatives seat representing Nimba County's District [1](#)6. The first round of the by-election was held February 6 (See Reftel A). Koah garnered 71.4 percent of the vote while his opponent, Paul D. Tuazama of the Liberia Action Party (LAP), obtained only 28.6 percent of the vote. There was a voter turnout of 45 percent, slightly lower than the 48.9 percent in the first round.

[1](#)2. (U) Emboff and Political Assistant visited 38 of the total 54 polling stations. They observed the election to be well organized and to be proceeding fairly. Like the first round, United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) peacekeepers and/or Liberia National Police officers were present at all polling stations. Emboff and Political Assistant observed that representatives from the 2 political parties with candidates in the election were present at all polling sites visited. Emboff and Political Assistant did not see any representatives of civil society, but were informed by poll workers that the National Democratic Institute (NDI) and the International Foundation for Election Systems (IFES) had staff observing the election. Political party representatives at the polling places visited reported no problems.

[1](#)3. (SBU) The UP retained its seat in Nimba's District 6, unlike the September 2006 Margibi by-election (See Reftel B), where the UP lost its seat to a Congress for Democratic Change (CDC) candidate. A factor might be that President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf visited Nimba before the first round of the by-election, but she did not visit Margibi County before the by-election was held there in September 2006.

Mazel